

review proposed solicitations that already include a small business set-aside. Thus, there would be no opportunity for them to file an appeal. As a result, an agency can get away with setting aside the bare minimum for small businesses without having a solicitation reviewed by the PCR, which deprives many small businesses of potential opportunities.

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This has been particularly harmful with larger contracts that have been bundled or consolidated. For example, at the General Services Administration, we have seen large contracts worth billions of dollars not receive PCR review. A review could have opened up more of the contracts to small businesses.

The Maximizing Small Business Competition Act of 2016, introduced by Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, seeks to remedy the problem created by the SBA's decision to limit PCR reviews.

The bill would allow PCRs to review contracts regardless of whether the contract already includes a set-aside or partial set-asides for small businesses.

We cannot accept the bare minimum from agencies regarding contracting opportunities for small businesses. If PCRs see that an agency can include more small firms, they should be allowed to appeal the agency.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow Members to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY) who in a relatively short period of time in this Congress is already showing considerable initiative and has taken a leadership role in the committee.

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, small business are mom-and-pop stores. They are contractors. They are all kinds of people across my district located on Main Street. They are families, they are veterans, and they are individuals in the First District of Mississippi and all across this great Nation.

Small businesses are the heart and soul of local and rural economies, especially in places in rural districts like my district.

H.R. 4332, Maximizing Small Business Competition Act of 2016, is part of an ongoing effort of the Small Business Committee to provide opportunities for small businesses and to promote greater accountability from the Federal Government.

The purpose of the SBA procurement center representatives is to review contracts across the government and make sure they are structured in a way that maximizes opportunities for small businesses to compete.

Unfortunately, the SBA changed their rules to say that, if a contract was restricted to small businesses in whole or in part, procurement center representatives would no longer review the contract.

This rule change has given agencies a way to get around small business administrative review. This rule change has led to contracts being consolidated or bundled, thus limiting opportunity for hundreds of small businesses to compete for work with the Federal Government.

H.R. 4332, the Maximizing Small Business Competition Act of 2016, provides a solution. This legislation makes clear that Small Business Administration procurement center representatives have the ability to review contracts, regardless of whether they are designated for award to small businesses, if the procurement center representative believes the requirement can be structured to improve small-business competition.

This legislation helps to ensure that there are not missed opportunities for small businesses contracting with the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the assistance and leadership shown by my chairman, Chairman CHABOT, and the bipartisan working relationship with Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ in bringing this bill to the floor. I appreciate my colleagues' consideration and support of H.R. 4332.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, PCRs are the first line of offense and defense when ensuring small businesses get their fair share of Federal contracts.

It is troubling that SBA has limited the ability of these professionals to oversee contracts. This decision could result in small firms not receiving the maximum contracting opportunities.

Currently, if a contracting officer sets aside 5 percent of the contract for service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses, PCRs are not reviewing these applications. A review could find that more could be set aside for these small businesses or perhaps other small-business groups.

This bill ensures that PCRs are seeking out additional opportunities for small business and not relying on contracting officers to guarantee that these businesses are afforded their fair share of prime contracts.

Mr. Speaker, once again I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, allowing small businesses the opportunity to compete for contracts is simply common sense. Competition encourages innovation, lower prices, and job creation.

This bill will alleviate an unnecessary barrier to small-business competition. H.R. 4332 removes a regulatory hurdle. I urge my colleagues to vote to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4332.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT)

that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4332.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNIFYING SMALL BUSINESS TERMINOLOGY ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4325) to amend the Small Business Act to modify the anticipated value of certain contracts reserved exclusively for small business concerns.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4325

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Unifying Small Business Terminology Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF THE ANTICIPATED VALUE OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS RE- SERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 15(j)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(j)(1)) is amended by striking "greater than \$2,500 but not greater than \$100,000" and inserting "greater than the micro-purchase threshold defined in section 1902(a) of title 41, United States Code, but not greater than the simplified acquisition threshold".

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 3(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(m)) is amended to read as follows:

"(m) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—In this Act, the term 'simplified acquisition threshold' has the meaning given such term in section 134 of title 41, United States Code."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, many of the contracting provisions in the Small Business Act were written in the 1960s and 1970s. As such, they predate the government's move to a set of standardized contracting terms in 1984.

In reality, this means that the Small Business Act uses outdated terms that make it hard to read in conjunction with other laws. Even the SBA has adopted the new terminology in their regulations, given that over 30 years have passed since it was first adopted.

My colleague and the ranking member of the Small Business Committee, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ of New York, introduced H.R. 4325 to update the Small Business Act. Thanks to her efforts, we will no longer use different terms for micropurchase or simplified acquisition than the rest of the government. This will make it easier for small businesses to understand the law and for contracting officers to implement the law.

This legislation was included as part of a larger bill that passed the Small Business Committee in January, and it received bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and pass H.R. 4325.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4325, the Unifying Small Business Terminology Act of 2016. There are many places in which the statutes and regulations small businesses must understand are overly complex.

This problem is compounded by inconsistencies in the language. For example, there are entire sections of the Small Business Act that are one long sentence with multiple commas and clauses.

The act also predates many other statutes and regulations that we now use to govern how agencies purchase goods and services.

As such, the act uses outdated terminology when discussing Federal contracting. Additionally, there are places in which the definitions vary between the act and the corresponding regulations.

One such case is when a contract must be reserved for award to small businesses. While the act indicates that contracts valued over \$2,000 and below \$100,000 are to be reserved for small businesses, other statutes and even SBA's own regulations point to different values or use the terms the values are supposed to represent.

This causes confusion not only among small businesses, but also to contracting officers as they are left to determine which values to use.

That is why I introduced H.R. 4325, the Unifying Small Business Terminology Act of 2016. The bill amends the Small Business Act so that it has the same terms that are used in titles 10 and 41 of the United States Code and in SBA's own regulation when referring to procurement rules.

This will ensure that there is no confusion among contracting personnel as to which opportunities should be set aside for small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, our committee hears from small businesses almost daily about how difficult it is to navigate the Federal marketplace.

With businesses having to be familiar with small-business regulations, the Federal Acquisition Regulations, and each agency's own FAR supplement, as

well as other statutes, the very least we can do is to make sure that all the terminology is consistent.

The changes made in H.R. 4325 will unify the terminology, providing much-needed certainty to both contracting officers and small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, in closing, the gentleman's bill is simply good government. We shouldn't have different terms and different laws if we are talking about the same thing.

Federal contracting is confusing enough for small businesses without the use of arcane terminology. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4325.

I would like to thank the gentleman, the ranking member, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, for her leadership in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4325.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4326) to amend the Small Business Act to expand the duties of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4326

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small and Disadvantaged Business Enhancement Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. EXPANDING DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(k)), as amended by section 870 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92), is amended—

(1) by striking "section 8, 15 or 44" and inserting "section 8, 15, 31, 36, or 44";

(2) by striking "sections 8 and 15" each place such term appears and inserting "sections 8, 15, 31, 36, and 44";

(3) in paragraph (10), by striking "section 8(a)" and inserting "section 8, 15, 31, or 36";

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (15), (16), and (17) as paragraphs (16), (17), and (18), respectively;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (14) the following new paragraph:

"(15) shall review purchases made by the agency greater than the micro-purchase

threshold defined in section 1902(a) of title 41, United States Code, and less than the simplified acquisition threshold to ensure that the purchases have been made in compliance with the provisions of this Act and have been properly recorded in the Federal Procurement Data System, if the method of payment is a purchase card issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to section 2784 of title 10, United States Code, or by the head of an executive agency pursuant to section 1909 of title 41, United States Code;"; and

(6) in paragraph (17) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) any failure of the agency to comply with section 8, 15, 31, or 36.".

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 3(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(m)) is amended to read as follows:

"(m) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—In this Act, the term 'simplified acquisition threshold' has the meaning given such term in section 134 of title 41, United States Code.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization were created in 1978 to serve as advocates within Federal agencies for small businesses seeking prime contracts and subcontracts.

These small offices help review contracts to prevent bundling, make sure small companies are paid promptly, and ensure that solicitations are written in a manner that maximizes the use of small businesses.

H.R. 4326, introduced by Ms. ADAMS of North Carolina, makes two improvements to this program.

First, H.R. 4326 makes a technical correction to the Small Business Act. When these offices were created in 1978, there was no contracting program for service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses or for businesses located in and employing people from distressed areas, commonly known as HUBZones.

Therefore, H.R. 4326 updates the act to make it clear that these small-business advocates are authorized to provide assistance to service-disabled veterans and HUBZone small businesses.

Second, the bill allows the Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization to crack down on credit card fraud by Federal employees.